

Millions in U.S. Aid Slighted In Report on Mexico Economy

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MEXICO CITY — Ironically enough, the day after outgoing President Adolfo Lopez Mateos delivered his sixth and last state-of-the-union message, Mexico received an Alliance for Progress credit of nearly 24 million dollars.

It was ironic because only the day before Lopez Mateos, in summing up the considerable achievements of his administration, had failed to

This figure includes the new credit of \$23,750,000 from Washington's Export-Import Bank to help Mexico finance its \$47,500,000 share of Friendship Dam, which is being built jointly with the United States on the Rio Grande at a cost of 130 million dollars.

But it does not include some outright gifts of food from Uncle Sam and such private U.S. relief agencies as

Mexico and the United States have never seen eye-to-eye on what the Alliance is and what it isn't — and the same is true of some other Latin American countries vis-à-vis Uncle Sam.

When Lopez Mateos detailed in his 1963 message the financial assistance which Mexico had obtained abroad up until that time, he only credited the Alliance with loans amounting to 50 million.

By his calculations loans contracted with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and even the Export-Import Bank did not come within the scope of the Alliance, but loans from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) did.

Actually, when the alliance was hammered into shape at Punta del Este in August of 1961, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon sought to make it as clear as possible on the record that loans and other assistance from international lending agencies, largely or wholly financed by Uncle Sam, were to be considered part of the Alliance program.

The World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank all fall within that category.

But the Lopez Mateos regime has not accepted the Dillon thesis, and apparently doesn't intend to.

The Mexican position appears to be that Mexico was

doing business with the World, Export-Import and Inter-American Banks long before the Alliance came into being, and that the Alliance can only be credited for such aid as the country receives over and above what it gets from the other lending agencies.

It is unlikely, however, that this semantical warfare had much to do with the omission of all references to the Alliance in Lopez Mateos' last message — delivered three months before he actually steps out of office on Dec. 1.

In accounting for his six years of stewardship, he left out many of the details he used to include in his other annual messages. He painted the story of his administration in broad strokes and with considerable self-satisfaction — which most observers agree is fully warranted.

He was telling his own story and there was no room in it for anyone or anything else.

— or scarcely so — and that included the Alliance.

Nevertheless, the incident has created some consternation not only in Washington but also among some Mexicans and Americans here.



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CARE, amounting to some 18 million and certain technical aid and other grants adding up to an additional 6 million.

Why Lopez Mateos should omit any mention of the Alliance in his final annual report to the Mexican people is anybody's guess.

The omission was especially puzzling to many Mexicans and to Americans in Mexico, since he paid warm tribute to the late President John F. Kennedy who, as the godfather of the Alliance, considered it his greatest contribution to inter-American friendship and understanding.

refer to the aid Mexico had received under the Alliance or even to mention the Alliance.

Yet since January 1961, some eight months before the Alliance's formal birth, Mexico has contracted loans of more than 806 million from the United States Inter-American and International lending agencies whose operations in Latin America are now considered part of the Alliance program.